

SAN FRANCISCO BAY WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENT FUND

PROGRESS REPORT – NOVEMBER 2008

The San Francisco Bay Water Quality Improvement Fund implements a new congressional appropriation for the protection and restoration of San Francisco Bay watersheds with priority to partnerships that leverage funds, and focus on innovative approaches to improving water quality. Water quality priorities to be addressed include invasive species, trash in our waterways, wetlands restoration, stormwater management (including impacts to urban streams), reductions of pollutants identified in Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs), and climate change impacts on water quality. Congress appropriated funds for this competitive grant program in 2008 (\$5m) to be administered by U.S. EPA.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

- 7 proposals were submitted in response to an EPA Request for Proposals requesting over \$11,325,000, indicating a high level of interest and need.
- The top ranked project was selected based on a competitive process emphasizing multiple water quality priorities, partnerships, environmental significance and results.
- Adding to the likelihood of success, the selected project implements priorities set forth in several critical regional plans such as:
 - SFEP's Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan (CCMP),
 - FOCUS (a multi-agency effort by ABAG, the Bay Area Air Quality Management District, BCDC and MTC to protect and restore wildlife corridors, allow for groundwater recharge, and enhance recreation),
 - the Center for Ecosystem Management and Restoration's (CEMAR) "Anchor Watersheds" plan to restore native fisheries,
 - US EPA's nascent Climate Ready Estuaries initiative.
- Total amount leveraged by the selected project is \$6,380,000.

SELECTED PROJECT

Estuary 2100- Resilient Watersheds for a Changing Climate (San Francisco Estuary Project/Association of Bay Area Governments) \$11,378,730 (Federal Share- \$4,998,730) SFEP's Estuary 2100 project will implement nineteen discrete on-the-ground projects in 4 different program areas indicated by the attached map. Highlights include:

- Wetland and Watershed Restoration: remove mercury laden sediment from the Guadalupe watershed (TMDL implementation), restore creek banks to reduce stream sedimentation on privately owned lands, focused efforts on invasive Spartina eradication and initiation of Littorina eradication, and restore wetlands at Yosemite Slough in San Francisco.
- Monitoring Changes in the Bay: produce adaptive management plans that address climate change effects for wetlands restoration projects at Corte Madera Creek and the Pond A8 of the South Bay Salt Ponds.
- LID and Stormwater BMPs: identify and quantify suitable public lands for two Bay Area counties that can be converted from impervious to pervious land cover to manage urban runoff, produce easy-to-use IPM guidelines for municipal and business sectors to certify their maintenance personnel and pest control contractors to reduce urban creek pesticide related toxicity, and implement a green infrastructure improvement project in a low-income San Francisco neighborhood (Bayview).
- Public Outreach: work with over fifteen partners to coordinate information, as well as reach local and regional governments, environmental groups, local media, and the general public through a three year public outreach campaign.



FOR MORE INFORMATION

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<http://www.epa.gov/region09/water/watershed/funding.html>

2. San Francisco Estuary with E2100 Projects and CEMAR Anchor Watersheds

